

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 21, 2015, 7:30pm
Town Hall Meeting Room

Present: First Selectman Gayle Weinstein, Selectman Dennis Tracey, Town Administrator Tom Landry, Police Chief John Troxell, Animal Control Officer Mark Harper, Police Commissioners Bill Brady and Beth Gralnik, , Library Board members Amy Sanborn and Denis Toner , Administrative Assistant Randi Derene, Weston Residents

This meeting was recorded and videotaped. The tapes are available in the Selectmen's office. The meetings are available for viewing online via the Town's website.

Ms. Weinstein called the meeting to order at: 7:45pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Ms. Weinstein led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Discussion/decision regarding adopting the proposed Dog Ordinance:

Mr. Tracey asked Mr. Harper why we don't have an open space for dogs to run around off leash. Mr. Harper stated that in all of the discussions, no one has ever come forward and asked for a dog park. He would be in full support of finding such a piece of property, but it needs to be a confined space. Mr. Tracey asked about Keene Park. Mr. Harper says having dogs off leash there is a nuisance to the fisherman, especially when multiple dogs are brought there by non-residents. Dogs are also chasing deer in the park. Ms. Weinstein suggested that Fromson Strassler be considered for a dog park.

The hours for Bisceglie Scribner Park are reviewed. The times were changed to allow dogs off leash until 9am year round and before 2pm on weekdays September to June. The wording for penalties for offenses to the leash laws was changed from "Violations of this ordinance SHALL be punishable by fine" to "Violations of this ordinance MAY be punishable by fine"

Mr. Harper requested better signage, especially at Bisceglie Park.

Mr. Tracey stated that he feels it is a fair ordinance, but still states the need for a Dog Park in town. Ms. Weinstein made a motion to approve the proposed Dog Ordinance updates as of May 21, 2015 with the amended changes as discussed. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/decision on appointing Ian Lewis to the board of the Westport Weston Health District for a term to expire May 21, 2018

Mr. Lewis introduced himself as a long term resident of both Weston and Westport. He is looking to do more volunteer work and his career has been around health care. Ms. Weinstein informed the Board that Mr. Lewis has a pending lawsuit against the Town's ZBA regarding shooting on the Aquarion property. Ms. Weinstein asked Mr. Lewis if his lawsuit against the town will be a conflict. He says it will not and it is unrelated. Mr. Tracey doesn't have any issues with this. Ms. Weinstein made a motion to appoint Ian Lewis to the board of the Westport Weston Health District for a term to expire May 21, 2018. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion/decision on re-appointing Don Kendall as our C-Med Southwest representative for a term to end June 30, 2016.

Ms. Weinstein made a motion to re-appoint Don Kendall as our C-Med Southwest representative for a term to end June 30, 2016. Ms. Tracey seconded. Motion approved.

Discussion/decision on re-appointing Rick Darling as our Town Treasurer for a term to end June 30, 2017. Ms. Weinstein made a motion to re-appoint Rick Darling as our Town Treasurer for a term to end June 30, 2017. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion approved.

Discussion/decision on re-appointing Rabbi Levi Stone as Weston Police Chaplain for a term to end June 30, 2017. Ms. Weinstein made a motion to re-appoint Rabbi Levi Stone as Weston Police Chaplain for a term to end June 30, 2017. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion/decision on re-appointing Reverend Bernard Wilson as Weston Police Chaplain for a term to end June 30, 2017. Ms. Weinstein made a motion to re-appoint Reverend Bernard Wilson as Weston Police Chaplain for a term to end June 30, 2017. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion/decision regarding amending the Chief of Police Job Description: Bill Brady or Beth Gralnick

Mr. Brady states that the Police Commission though the Chief's position needed to be re-evaluated as the last time it was done was back in 2005. With the Town Administrator's approval, Randi Frank, HR consultant was hired to re-evaluate the position description and see what needs to be changed, if anything. Ms. Gralnick stated that police chief duties have expanded with regard to recruitment duties as well as now requiring over 10 years' experience (previously said 10 years' experience). The additional years of experience will cause a grade shift in the rating system.

Mr. Tracy felt that the Commission did not present the BOS with all the information to make this decision. The old job description was not available and there is confusion as to the difference between "10 years of experience" and "over 10 years of experience." Given many unanswered questions, the Board tabled the discussion to the next meeting. Ms. Weinstein will follow up with consultant Randi Frank.

Discussion/decision regarding the approval of a resolution endorsing Weston's participation in the Intertown Capital Equipment (ICE) Purchase Incentive Program.

Ms. Weinstein said that this was a grant applied for and obtained by Sgt. Matt Brodacki to fund computer equipment at the forensics lab. We need to get approval by the other municipalities in our region who share this forensics lab. The purpose of the resolution is to acknowledge that the town supports our participation in the ICE Program and allow Sgt. Matt Brodacki to be our signatory. Mr. Tracey made a motion to resolve that the Board of Selectmen endorse Weston's participation in the ICE Intertown Purchase Incentive Program and that the Board of Selectmen authorize Sgt. Matt Brodacki to sign all documents related to the grant award received by the Town of Weston from the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, dated March 30, 2015. Ms. Weinstein seconded. Motion carried.

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Update regarding the Library's Strategic Plan: Amy Sanborn and Denis Toner.

Ms. Sanborn thanked the Board and the Town for supporting their project. Mr. Toner presents the strategic plan to the Board (see attached). Ms. Weinstein and Mr. Tracey praised the work product and asked that it be posted on our Town's website so the public gets to see the Strategic Plan.

Discussion/decision regarding forming a Strategic Planning Committee

Ms. Weinstein presented a draft of a mission statement, see attached. Mr. Tracey stated that we really need to focus on the views and needs of not just those already in town, but those that may consider moving to town. Ms. Weinstein also stressed the importance of integrating Planning and Zoning. Mr. Tracey and Ms. Weinstein made edits to the mission statement, see attached. Ms. Weinstein stated to the public that if you have interest in joining this committee to please send a letter to the BOS and they will be reviewing and interviewing potential committee members in the next few of weeks. Mr. Tracey moved to have the BOS approve the formation of the Select Committee for Strategic Planning. The committee shall have up to 15 members with a term to expire in 2 years after formation. The mission of the committee shall be as set forth in the Town of Weston's Strategic Planning committee mission statement dated 5/21/15 but may be amended at the next BOS meeting.

Discussion/decision regarding the approval of awarding the contract for the Parcel Mapping & Web Based GIS Application to New England Geosystems, Geographical Information Systems Consultants, and to give the First Selectman the authority to negotiate and execute the contract.

Ms. Weinstein thanked to SWRPA for the grant that paid for our aerial photos. We had additional funding that was extended to the 10 towns in the former HV region so that all 18 towns in our COG will be on the same mapping system. Mr. Tracey moved to award the contract for the Parcel Mapping & Web Based GIS Application to New England Geosystems, Geographical Information Systems Consultants, and to give the First Selectman the authority to negotiate and execute the contract. Ms. Weinstein seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion/decision regarding property tax refunds.

Emmanuel Young	\$3,603.91
Ally Financial	\$1,029.00
CAB East - Ford Credit PP	\$498.15
Nissan Infinity	<u>\$65.71</u>
TOTAL	\$5,196.77

Mr. Tracey moved to approve the property tax refunds as listed in the agenda for a total of \$5,196.77. Ms. Weinstein seconded. Motion carried.

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Open Items:

First Selectman Updates:

- a. Ms. Weinstein presented the facility conceptual options(see attached). Ms. Weinstein will review this with the Global Facilities Committee and once they get final cost estimates will review with the Board of Finance. Mr. Weinstein also mentioned that funding was approved to look into the potential to add EMS office and bunk space to the upper level of the firehouse. The cost associated with shoring up the structure to add a second floor was excessive. Mr. Humes is going to switch gears and do a cost estimate (\$1500 already allocated for this) of tearing down the existing communications center and building EMS a 1000-1500 Sq. foot facility in that space. Mr. Tracey recommended that this plan be put down clearly on paper. Ms. Weinstein stated she will put this in memo form to the three Boards. Before she does that, she is still waiting to hear back from the Board of Education with their approval which is critical in moving forward.
- b. Ms. Weinstein presented a memo given to her by the Registrars regarding the referendum vote. (See attached). In summary, people seemed to like having the voting take place here in Town Hall. Next year they will try and do that again, and hold the voting on a Saturday. Mr. Tracey also mentioned we should have more publicity. Ms. Weinstein stated that were signs posted around town, it was posted on the Town of Weston website, in The Forum, as well as on News12. What Ms. Weinstein suggested for next year is sending out postcards to all residents with the dates of all budget related meetings.
- c. Margaret Wirtenberg asked Ms. Weinstein to discuss the following proposed bill: Towns that are less than 40,000 in residents, have to merge their PSAP applications (public service answering points "911") otherwise we risk losing funding from the state. Ms. Weinstein is concerned, but the community has to weigh in on our options. Do we want to pay for someone else to do our 911 calls and then transfer them here so we can dispatch. Or would it be more cost effective to say "no thank you" to the state and give up the funding?
- d. Changes to Senate Bill 1 were discussed.
- e. Also, there is a proposal for .5% of the sales tax to be shifted into the MRSA (municipal revenue sharing account) beginning Oct 1, 2015. Municipalities will receive 90% of that revenue and 10% will go to the COG's. If this passes, we are going receive additional revenue of 1 million dollars from the state.

Any other business to come properly before the meeting: None

Ms. Weinstein made a motion to add the following item to the agenda: Executive session to discuss union contracts. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session: Discussion/decision regarding non-union raises and benefits

Mr. Tracey makes a motion to move into executive session. Ms. Weinstein seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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Public Session adjourned: 9:13pm

Respectfully submitted by,
Randi Derene
Administrative Assistant

Executive Session Minutes
Submitted by Tom Landry, Town Administrator

ATTENDANCE: The meeting was convened at 9:15 pm in the First Selectman's Office by Chairman Weinstein, with Selectmen Tracey present. Also attending was Town Administrator Landry.

DISCUSSION: The Board considered the latest offer by the AFSCME DPW unit, and contemplated changes in pay and benefit levels for non- union employees, and how that might impact existing contract negotiations.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 9:55 pm, a motion (DM, GW second) to adjourn executive session and resume in open session passed unanimously.

ADJOURN: At 9:56 pm a motion to adjourn the meeting (DT motion, GW second) passed by unanimous vote.

Minutes Approved: June 30, 2015